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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,079	12/21/2001	Charles V. Clevenger	PENN-0795	5293
26259	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
LICATLA & TYRRELL P.C. 66 E. MAIN STREET MARLTON, NJ 08053			TELLER, ROY R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1654	
DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/029,079		CLEVENGER ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Roy Teller		1654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/5/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the election, received 3/1/04, in which applicant elected group I, claims 1-4, with traverse. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is a disclosed relationship between the human prolactin binding protein (group I, claims 1-4) and the disclosed methods for using said protein for modulating somatolactogenic function(group II, claims 5-6), inhibiting Nb2 cells (group III, claims 7-8), and for diagnosing disease(group IV, claims 9-10). This is not found persuasive because the search for each of the inventions of groups I-IV is not co-extensive, particularly with regard to the literature search. Further, a reference which would anticipate the invention of one group would not necessarily anticipate or even make obvious the other group. Finally, the consideration for patentability is different in each case. Thus, it would be an undue burden to examine the four inventions in one application.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 1-4 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 4/5/02 is acknowledged. A signed copy is attached hereto.

Claim Objections

Art Unit: 1654

The claims are objected to for failing to adhere to the requirements of sequence rules. Applicant must append SEQ ID NO's to all mentions of specific sequences in the claims. See 37 CFR 1.821(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mercado et al (“A Growth Hormone/Prolactin-Binding Protein in Human Milk”, 1994, J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab., 79 (6): pp-1637-1641) (IDS-AG).

The claimed invention is drawn to a human prolactin-binding protein isolated from human serum or milk.

Mercado teaches the identification of a human growth hormone/ prolactin-binding protein (hGH/hPRL) in human milk, see abstract and entire document.

Therefore, the reference is deemed to anticipate the instant claims above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mercado et al ("A Growth Hormone/Prolactin-Binding Protein in Human Milk", 1994, J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab., 79 (6): pp-1637-1641) (IDS-AG).

The claimed invention is drawn to a human prolactin-binding protein isolated from human serum or milk, which is produced recombinantly and a composition comprising the prolactin binding protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

The reference is relied upon for the reasons set forth above. If not expressly taught, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to make result-effective adjustments in conventional working parameters (e.g., producing such a human prolactin binding protein recombinantly, formulating a composition comprising the prolactin binding protein, and/or including a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle) as a mere matter of judicious selection and routine optimization, based upon the beneficial teachings provided by the cited reference.

Thus, the claimed invention as a whole is *prima facie* obvious over the cited reference, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Conclusion

All claims are rejected.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roy Teller whose telephone number is 571-272-0971. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback, can be reached on 571-272-0961. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RT
1654
5/13/04

RT


CHRISTOPHER R. TATE
PRIMARY EXAMINER